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Message Text

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44
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 9041

E.0. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SP
SUBJ: VIEWS OF UNDER SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MARCELINO OREJA

1. THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME VIEWS OF NEW UNDER SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MARCELINO OREJA ON INTERNAL POLITICAL AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS ISSUES AS EXPRESSED TO ME DURING MY COURTESY CALL ON HIM ON DECEMBER 26.

2. OREJA SAID THAT THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WOULD MAKE IMPORTANT POLITICAL DECISIONS THAT DAY TO POSTPONE BOTH LOCAL AND CORTES ELECTIONS UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR IN ORDER TO GIVE TIME TO PERMIT MAJOR POLITICAL GROUPINGS TO ORGANIZE AND WEIGH IN ON THE ELECTIONS. (OREJA WAS RIGHT WITH REGARD TO THE GENERAL THRUST OF WHAT THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WOULD DO BUT DID NOT HAVE THE DETAILS.)

3. OREJA RECOGNIZED THAT IT WAS GOING TO BE DIFFICULT TO ORGANIZE THE POLITICAL PROCESS IN AN IDEAL FASHION, BUT HE SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO AN EVENTUAL SITUATION IN WHICH THERE WOULD BE THREE PRINICPAL PARTIES, ONE REPRESENTING TRADITIONAL FRANCOPHILES, A SECOND REPRESENTING THE CENTER, AND A THIRD, THE SOCIALISTS. THE COMMUNISTS WOULD, OF COURSE, BE LEFT OUT. (HOW TO ACHIEVE SUCH A SIMPLE AND COHERENT POLITICAL SITUATION IS OF COURSE ONE OF THE MAIN ISSUES
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FACING THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT.)

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4. OREJA HAD HIGH PRAISE FOR NEW MINISTER OF FINANCE VILLA MIR AND SIAD HE HAD CONFIDENCE THAT VILLA MIR WOULD TAKE ACTIONS TO GET THE ECONOMY MOVING. HE RECOGNIZED THAT LABOR WOULD BE A PROBLEM BUT MADE THE POINT THAT IN FACT LABOR DID NOT HAVE MUCH REASON FOR COMPLAINT BECAUSE ITS REAL WAGES HAD BEEN MAINTEINED, IF NOT INCREASED, DURING THE RECESSION. THE USE OF THE TERM WAGE FREEZE IN MEDIA REPORTING WAS, HE POINTED OUT, A MISREPRESENTATION.

5. OREJA THOUGHT THE KING HAD MADE THE RIGHT DECISION TO SEPARATE HIMSELF FROM DAILY GOVERNMENT ROUTINE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT HE RESERVE HIMSELF FOR MAJOR DECISIONS. NEVERTHELESS, IN THE PRESENT SITUATION IN WHICH MUCH DEPENDED ON HIM, HE COULD NOT IN FACT SEPARATE HIMSELF AS MUCH AS HE WOULD LIKE TO.

6. OREJA SAID FOREIGN MINISTER AREILZA HAD COME BACK FROM PARIS WITH VERY POSITIVE COMMENTS REGARDING HIS CONVERSATION WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER. HE SAID THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT WANTED TO FINISH THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES PROMPTLY AND THOUGHT THIS SHOULD BE NOT TOO DIFFICULT TO DO. OREJA ALSO HOPED SAPIN COULD RELATIVELY SOON PLAY ITS APPROPRIATE ROLE IN EUROPE.

7. OREJA SPIKE ENTHUSIASTICALLY ABOUT THE UNITED STATES, WHICH HE HAD VISITED MANY TIMES. HE ASKED THAT HIS SPECIAL APPRECIATION BE TRANSMITTED TO THOSE IN THE EMBASSY WHO HAD MAINTAINED CONTACT WITH HIM AND OFFERED HIM OPPORTUNITIES TO TRAVEL AT US EXPENSE DURING THE TIME WHEN HE WAS IN THE OPPOSITION. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT FORGET WHAT HAD BEEN DONE FOR HIM AND THAT HE WOULD ALWAYS BE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST WITH ANY PROBLEMS THE EMBASSY MIGHT HAVE. HE LOOKED FORWARD TO EXCELLENT RELATIONS.

8. COMMENT: OREJA IS STILL MORE INTERESTED IN TALKING ABOUT INTERNAL POLITICS THAN ABOUT FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE IS EBULLIENT ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING AND ABOUT THE ROLE HE AND OTHERS FROM THE CENTRIST TACITO AND FEDISA GROUPS ARE PLAYING. HE STRIKES ONE AS A POSITIVE DOER WHO DOES NOT LIKE TO DWELL
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ON, AND MAY UNDERESTIMATE, PROBLEMS THAT WILL HAVE TO BE FACED. HE IS OBVIOUSLY SINCERE IN THE APPRECIATION HE EXPRESSES FOR THE RELATIONSHIP US OFFICIALS HAVE MAINTAINED WITH HIM.
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